

Haryana Review

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Haryana Review wishes its readers a Happy New Year



Look, what 2024 has in store for you!

►► P3



See also PP 4-5

Haryana tops 'Land Group' states as Achiever

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

Haryana has added one more feather in its glowing cap under the stellar leadership of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal. It has topped among 'Land Group' of States in the 'Logistics Ease Across Different States-2023 (LEADS-2023) ranking, recently released by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles Mr Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.

The four landlocked states which have been declared achievers in the report are Haryana, which boasts of having one of the best logistics ecosystems in the country, followed by Punjab, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, while among the fast movers are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand are 'aspirers' among the landlocked states.

Haryana's excellent performance in LEADS-2023 exemplifies the state government's unwavering commitment under

the guidance of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal to build a resilient logistics sector, which is vast in its scope and impact as there is not a single person in the country who is not directly impacted by the logistics sector.

Logistics sector

As per an estimate, logistics sector will be a cornerstone in our collective endeavours to take India to a 10X growth from a USD 3.5 trillion to USD 35 trillion by 2047, and Haryana is all poised to be an active partner in achieving the ViksitBharat@2047 goal by incorporating further revolutionary reforms in logistics sector.

From the day one Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal took over the state's reins, Haryana has been working with a focussed attention on multi-modal connectivity, digital initiatives in logistics, city logistics plans, multi-modal logistics parks, skill development, capacity building, formalization of logistics policies, implementation of monitoring frameworks, and the promotion of green logistics.

COVID alert sounded in state

By **Ajay Bhardwaj**

Haryana Health and Family Welfare Minister, Sh. Anil Vij said that although there are presently no cases of COVID-19 in the state, RT-PCR tests will be

conducted for cases of ILI and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) across the state.

Taking part in a meeting chaired by Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya regarding measures in response to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and the

detection of the JN.1 variant, Sh Vij emphasized the necessity for mandatory RT-PCR tests for ILI and SARI cases, proposing that COVID-19 should be declared a notifiable disease. This would require private hospitals to inform the Chief Medical Officer and government hospitals of any cases.

Assertive but not at cost of wishes of House

Winter session brings out two traits of CM's persona

By **Parveen K Modi**

Barring the one in which Budget proposals for the next fiscal are presented, other Assembly sessions are virtually look-alikes. But the three-day winter session of the Haryana Assembly which concluded on December 19, 2023, was a bit different at least in one respect.

It not only brought out in sharp contrast both the unyielding and accommodative traits of the persona of the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, but also refurbished his credentials as a true and liberal democrat when it comes to deferring to the wishes of members of the House.

Known for taking things in proper perspective and walking before running, he dis-

played both characteristics on different occasions. He was as firmly assertive in trashing to the bin the figures on unemployment totted up by the Opposition as he was accommodative and adjusting on the issue of who should be entrusted with the task of holding an inquiry into the Jind school episode, and on the choice of a state song for Haryana.

Holds the fort

He firmly held the fort on the issue of joblessness, hitting every googly of the googly-eyed Opposition for a six, and drowning their decibel in the figures of those employed by his government (1,06,000) during the last nine years. Argumentative and unyielding at his best, he carried the day. "Besides filling 106,000 Group C and D posts, the government has made about 11,500 recruitments for Group A and B posts; advertisements have been issued for 3,200 Group A and B posts, and



are in the pipeline for about 61,000 Group C and D posts. Thus, a total of 1,67,000 recruitments will be made by our government", he averred pulling the rug from under the feet of the opposition.

His affable and adjusting self having an open mind was witnessed in ample measure on occasion more than one, adoption of the state song for one year being the first

On day one while introducing a proposal for a state song, the Chief Minister said, "Haryana has its own emblem, it does not have

a state song that represents its history and culture and embodies the virtues and contributions of its people. The state song once adopted will provide a new proud identity to the Haryanvis irrespective of their caste, gender, religion or economic status."

Three songs shortlisted by the government were played in the House. It was left to the members to either make a choice and share their opinions after reviewing them on December 19, or propose a draft of a new song.

Panel set up

Given the mood of the House one sensed that one of the three would be selected. But on the last day when some members expressed reservations about the songs chosen by the government, Mr Manohar Lal readily deferred to the wishes of members who wanted a committee to make the choice.

Now, a five-member committee led by Mr Laxman Singh

Yadav has been set up for the purpose. Notably, 14 states in the country have already adopted songs for their respective states. His conciliatory and accommodative stance was also seen on the issue of probe into the incident in a school at Uchana in Jind District, Earlier, the House had agreed to get the investigation done by a sitting judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

But after some members expressed the opinion that the issue of the Assembly should remain confined to the House, the Business Advisory Committee was called again where it was decided that a five-member committee will be formed under the chairmanship of School Education Minister, Mr Kanwar Pal, to investigate such incidents in schools from year 2005 to 2023. Decidedly, thoughtful and constructive issues were discussed in the session.

Look, what 2024 has in store for you!

Given the Antyodaya push, thousands stand to gain

By Parveen K Modi

Welfare of one and all and bringing the marginalised into the mainstream constituted the fulcrum of all policies and programmes of the Manohar Lal Government in 2023. Even as the common thread of welfare binds them all, schemes dipped in Antyodaya spirit aiming at last-man and last-mile welfare, have been tailor-made to extend social security cover to those hitherto left uncovered. And if early straws in the wind—decisions taken and announcements made—are any indication, welfare will continue to dominate the discourse and actions in the New Year. The avowed objective is to bring under the ambit of welfare every deserving resident residing in any nook or corner of the state. Haryana Review has a close look at how different segments of people stand to gain in 2024 from some of the decisions taken, and those on the anvil of the state government.

Social security pension goes up to Rs 3,000

If you are a beneficiary of the social security pension in Haryana, you will get Rs 3,000 per month from January 1, 2024, up from Rs 2,750 credited into your account until December, 2023. With the Old Age Pension getting linked to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) from May, 2022, pension is paid to more than 1,82,000 beneficiaries automatically.

“Our government has increased the pension amount from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,750 a month, and from January 2024, a monthly pension of Rs 3,000 will be provided. The eligibility criterion for pension has been revised, increasing the income limit from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh”, the Chief Minister said.

22,800 cancer patients to get financial help

More than 22,800 stage III and IV cancer patients have a reason to flash a smile, and say welcome to the New Year. For, the scheme announced by the Chief Minister to alleviate the financial burden faced by eligible cancer patients by giving them monthly financial help, goes into effect from January 1, 2024.

According to the scheme approved by the Cabinet such patients will be given financial assistance of Rs 3,000 in addition to the benefit availed by them under any other social security pension scheme.

The financial assistance will be on a par with old Age Samman Allowance. From January, they will receive monthly assistance of Rs 3,000.

It may be noted that pension for stage III and IV cancer patients was announced by the Chief Minister while inaugurating the Atal Cancer Care Centre in Ambala Cantt.

The eligible applicant should be a citizen of Haryana and India and should be residing in the state for 15 years on the date of submission of the application; should have Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP), and his family income should be less than Rs 3 lakh per annum, except the amount of any other Social Security Pension scheme.



15K widowers, unwed to get first pension

If you are a widower or belong to the unwed category, you are a beneficiary. The New Year will dawn for 15,000 widowers and unmarried persons who are unable to sustain themselves from their own sources and are in need of financial assistance from the state, on a good note.

The bank accounts of identified beneficiaries will be credited with social security pension.

In all 12,882 widowers and 2,026 unmarried persons will be getting pension from December, 2023. A widower who has

attained the age of 40 years and his own verified annual income is upto Rs. 3 lakh will be eligible for the scheme benefit.

“Besides, an unmarried person, male as well as female, who has attained the age of 45 years and belongs to a family whose verified annual family income is up to Rs. 1.8 lakh will be eligible,” said Mr Manohar Lal.

After reaching the age of 60, beneficiaries from both categories will be shifted to pension schemes according to the eligibility criteria. The state government had earlier decided to provide social security pension to persons with disabilities.

By Jan 31, all colonies will be regularised

If you are living in an unauthorized colony, you have a reason to smile in the New Year. For, before the opening month of the New Year meets its last day, Haryana will be without any unauthorized colony: all will be regularized. The Chief Minister has set the deadline of January 31, 2024 for notification of all the 2,274 unauthorized colonies in the state.

To make things clear to the man in the street, notification of unauthorised colonies means ensuring the provision of essential

urban development and amenities for the residents residing there. These include roads, sewerage, water supply, and streetlights.

Giving a big relief to the residents residing in these colonies, 1,883 colonies have been regularized so far.

Infra set to be laid for gas-based economy

The Year 2024 will see the introduction of a comprehensive City Gas Distribution Policy.

Aimed at expediting the approval process for installation of gas (CNG/PNG) pipelines within a specified time-frame, it would help streamline procedures, ensuring efficient and timely permissions for advancing the development of gas infrastructure in the state.

City Gas Distribution (CGD) network is being developed to expand gas demand and utilization across domestic households, commercial establishments, industrial facilities, and transport sector.

The state government has been strategically planning to have in place extensive CGD infrastructure to make Haryana a gas-based economy and reduce its dependence on crude oil imports.

Pension for victims of 55 rare diseases

Come January 1 and those suffering from 55 rare diseases, designated by the Central Government too will get enhanced pension of Rs 3,000 per month. The Financial Assistance to Persons Suffering from Rare Diseases Scheme.

Constantly on the look-out for those who need a helping hand, the Haryana Government recently came out with a scheme to provide a monthly pension of Rs 2,750 to persons suffering from designated rare diseases. The eligible beneficiary of the scheme can also draw benefits under other social security pension plans.

But there is a caveat. Not all suffering from such disease will be entitled to pension under the



scheme. According to the notification issued by Mr Pankaj Aggarwal, Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA) Department, the benefit would be available to only those whose family income is less than Rs 3 lakh per annum.

“The financial assistance to

the patients will be equivalent to the old-age pension (Rs 2,750). The assistance provided under the scheme will be in addition to the benefits available under other social security pension schemes,” the notification said.

The National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, made by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 55 diseases have

been identified as rare diseases.

These include Pompe Disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which are usually lifelong debilitating medical conditions.

The policy contains provision for free treatment for persons suffering from such diseases at designated “Centres of Excellence” which are authorised to declare that one is suffering from a rare disease.

Though the National Policy contains provision of financial support of up to Rs 50 lakh to any patient suffering from any rare disease at any of the “Centres of Excellence”, yet the monthly pension for such patients is being provided with a view to take care of their routine expenditure.

Compiled by Vinay Malik



Photos by Vinay Malik

Gita Mahotsav in line with PM's vision : CM

By Ajay Bhardwaj

The International Gita Mahotsav 2023 emerged as a holistic experience with global Gita recitations involving 18,000 students, an International Gita Seminar, a Saints' Conference, Aarti at Brahma Sarovar, Deepotsav, and cultural programmes at 164 locations within a 48-kilometer radius.

Remarkably, this year, over 30 lakh devotees congregated at the Mahotsav. Emphasizing the timeless and universal nature of the Bhagavad Gita's teachings, the Chief Minister recalled Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's acknowledgment of Kurukshetra's special significance in 2014.

"Since then, taking inspiration from the Prime Minister, celebrating Gita Mahotsav at the International level has been initiated since the year 2016.

Today every country in the world wants to organize an IGM in their country.

Gita Mahotsav has been organized in Mauritius, Canada, UK, and Australia. Just yesterday the Culture Minister of Sri Lanka also inquired from the state government about organizing Gita Mahotsav in Sri Lanka also," said the chief minister.

Annual festival

The International Gita Mahotsav is an annual festival dedicated to the sacred scripture Bhagavad Gita. The festival brought forth spiritual leaders, scholars, and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate the teachings of the Gita and showcase the cultural diversity of various regions.

He said it is a matter of great joy today as we are celebrating the International Gita Mahotsav for the eighth consecutive time so that the message of the Gita reaches all corners of the country and the world.

He stated that the relevance of the Gita is universal and eternal, and its significance is as much today as it was in the past. To make the world happy and lead it on the path of peace, the message of the Gita is essential.

Highlighting initiatives under the National Education Policy, the chief minister announced the inclusion of 54 verses of the Gita in the school curriculum this year, with plans to integrate more

shlokas in the future.

He encouraged students to carry a copy of the Gita, stressing the importance of incorporating its teachings from a young age.

Congratulating Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, the chief minister reminisced about the historical ties between Haryana and Assam, particularly their shared participation in the Mahabharata war.

Expressing optimism, he looked forward to further strengthening the relations between the two states.

Global recognition

Reflecting on Kurukshetra's global significance, the Chief Minister said that the International Gita Mahotsav has garnered international acclaim. Requests for organizing similar events have poured in from various countries, including Mauritius, Canada, and Australia. Discussions are underway for hosting the event in Sri Lanka in 2024.

Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma acknowledged the historical connections between Lord Shri Krishna and Assam, emphasizing the deep rooted cultural heritage of India. He expressed gratitude for the invitation to the Gita Mahotsav extended by the Haryana Chief Minister.

The event witnesses a spectacular moment as 18 thousand students recite 18 verses of the Gita, creating a resonance in the sky. Gita Gyan Sansthan President, Swami Gyananand Maharaj commends the International Gita Mahotsav for bringing honor to Kurukshetra and spreading the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita globally. Vice President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar today inaugurated the state-level exhibition organized by the Information, Public Relations, Language, and Culture Department at the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra.

Dhankad echoes Gita's message

Vice President of India Sh Jagdeep Dhankar led the grand inauguration of the International Gita Mahotsav 2023 on December 17 with the Gita Aarti and worship of the holy scripture at Brahma Sarovar, echoing with verses from the Bhagavad Gita.

The inauguration unfolded amidst traditional cultural performances by artists from various states, adding a kaleidoscope of colours and expressions to the event.

The Chief Minister accompanied the Vice President to perform the ritualistic pouring of holy water from Brahma Sarovar, followed by worship and the offering of flowers to the sacred scripture. The luminous atmosphere was further heightened with their active participation in the Gita Aarti.

As part of the festivities, the Assam and Haryana pavilions were formally inaugurated by the Vice President offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the diverse cultural and artistic heritage of these states.

At a seminar later, he lauded the chief minister for his unwavering commitment to the principles of the Bhagavad Gita and expressed his admiration for his initiatives in promoting Gita's message nationally and internationally.

Amit Shah pats CM for taking Gita to world

Haryana Review Bureau

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah, who also participated in the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM) underscored the timeless wisdom embedded in Srimad Bhagavad Gita as a solution to individual, societal, national, and global challenges.

While addressing a gathering at the Sant Sammelan he not only lauded the Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal led the government to elevate cultural harmony globally through the IGM since 2016 but also highlighted the historical significance of Kurukshetra,

Where over 5000 years ago, Lord Shri Krishna delivered the message of Gita.

Sharing a personal anecdote, the Union Home Minister revealed that the teachings of Holy Gita, instilled by his mother since childhood, have been a guiding light, helping him navigate life's challenges without succumbing to disappointment and sorrow.

He lauded the efforts of the chief minister for giving the Gita Mahotsav an international character, expanding its format, and facilitating the global dissemination of Gita's timeless wisdom.

The Union Home Minister commended the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, stating that from 2014 to 2024, historic decisions have been made to awaken India's

self. These decisions include the construction of the Shri Ram temple, the abrogation of Article 370, and transformative developmental projects.

Expressing his belief in the role of such programmes, Sh. Amit Shah said that initiatives like the IGM play a pivotal role in spreading the teachings and knowledge of Holy Gita to the masses, contributing to the re-establishment of Gita's profound principles worldwide.

The Chief Minister warmly welcomed the Union Home minister to Kurukshetra on behalf of the state's 2.80 crore residents and commended the Modi government for operating in alignment with Indian cultural values since 2014.

The chief minister said the effective resolution of complex issues like the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the construction of Lord Shri Ram's temple in Ayodhya, and the legislation on triple talaq were the high points of the times. The Chief Minister referred to the Prime Minister and Home Minister as the 'Iron Men' for taking these transformative decisions.

He said that the message of Gita given by Lord Shri Krishna to Arjuna in the Mahabharata war thousands of years ago is not just the reading of the book but it is eternal, universal, everlasting.



Compiled by Vinay Malik

House panel to look into school harassment cases

All incidents from 2005 to 2023 to be investigated : CM

By Ajay Bhardwaj

A four-member committee has been constituted to investigate the matter regarding sexual harassment by the then Principal of Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Uchana Mandi (Jind) following the recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee of the Vidhan Sabha during the recent winter session.

The fact-finding committee under the Chairmanship of School Education Minister, Sh. Kanwar Pal would investigate the said matter, for the period from 2005 to 2023 of all incidents mentioned/discussed in the House.

The Committee members include MLAs Sh. Aseem Goel, Sh. Bharat Bhushan Batra, Sh. Amarjeet Dhanda.

The Committee will submit its

report in the first meeting of the next Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha.

Haryana Chief Minister Sh Manohar Lal while expressing his serious concern at the incident of sexual harassment in a school in Uchana, had agreed to get the investigation done by a sitting judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

But some members said that the issue of the Assembly should remain in the Assembly, hence a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee was held again, in which it was agreed that a House committee will be formed.

157 questions

The Chief Minister said that thoughtful and constructive issues were discussed in the 3-day winter session. As many as 157 questions were asked, out of which 60 were starred questions while 62 calling attention proposals were received, which were compiled into 13 due to the same topic.

The Chief Minister mentioned



the establishment of the Foreign Cooperation Department to deter the illegal migration of Haryana's youth. Through this department, efforts are made to skill the youth and provide employment opportunities abroad. Notably, Israel has

requested 10,000 skilled workers, and there are demands for 40 from Dubai and 120 from the UK. The state government has issued an advertisement in this regard.

In light of allegations raised by the Opposition concerning mal-

practices in the recruitment process of the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC), Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal took a solemn oath on the sacred Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, saying that in this episode if any officer is found involved then the said officer will be terminated with immediate effect.

Baseless allegations

The Chief Minister strongly condemned the baseless allegations levelled by the Congress regarding HPSC recruitments being done on 'Parchi Karchi' system. "If any officer at any level is found involved in corrupt practices related to the HPSC recruitment process, they will not be forgiven.

Immediate dismissal shall be the consequence of such actions," assured the Chief Minister. He reiterated the government's dedication to ensuring a fair and ethical recruitment process, stressing that any form of corruption or malpractice would not be tolerated.

Haryana pays highest compensation to farmers

Haryana Review Bureau

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Sh. JP Dalal said that Haryana is giving the highest compensation to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Under this scheme, a total compensation of Rs 7967.40 crore has been given to the farmers. Replying to a question asked by MLA Dr Abhay Singh Yadav during the Assembly session the minister said that under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Haryana, a total of Rs 1943.34 crore was taken as premium from the farmers, the state's share is Rs 2575.10 crore and the central government's share is Rs 2295.42 crore.

A total of Rs 6813.87 crore has been given to insurance companies, while a total compensation of Rs 7967.40 crore has been given to farmers.

Cases against players

Haryana Home Minister Sh. Anil Vij told the House that 24 cases of sexual exploitation against players have been reported with 17 cases currently under legal proceedings.

Sh. Vij provided these details in response to a question asked during the winter session. He said that in six cases no evidence was found during the investigation, and in four cases, the charges against the accused were not proven.

Responding to another question during the session, Health and Family Welfare Minister Sh Anil Vij stated that the state government aimed at providing state-of-the-art healthcare facilities in all hospitals, with plans to renovate 162 dilapidated Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) in the state.

Tenders for these renovations have already been issued, and work has commenced at some locations as administrative approval has been granted for 134 sub-health centres,



2 primary health centres, one community health centre, and 37 public health centres.

The Health Minister informed that cath lab services are operational in four districts (Ambala, Faridabad, Gurugram, and Panchkula) under PPP mode, with tenders issued for three additional districts (Sonapat, Bahadurgarh in Jhajjar, and Yamunanagar).

He said that MRI services under PPP mode are already available in five districts (Ambala,

Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurugram, and Panchkula), with tenders issued for five more districts (Kurukshetra, Panipat, Bahadurgarh in Jhajjar, Palwal, and Charkhi Dadri).

Haryana Education Minister, Sh. Kanwar Pal said that the enrollment of students in the state's government schools during the year 2022-23 was 16.57 percent higher than the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20.

Responding to a question from MLA, Gohana, Sh. Jagbir Singh Malik during the Question Hour

Corporation has allocated approximately 800 acres of land to M/s Maruti Suzuki India Limited as part of the Ultra Mega Project.

Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Dushyant Chautala, in response to a question raised by a member of the House, said that in 2013, around 3200 acres of land were acquired for the purposes for the development of the Industrial Model Township (IMT) in Kharkhoda. Additionally, the remaining pieces of land, which is approximately 18 acres, was acquired in 2016.

Guest teachers

Haryana School Education Minister, Sh. Kanwar Pal said that the services of guest teachers are covered under the Haryana Guest Teachers Services Act, 2019.

According to the Act, the guest teachers working before the date of enactment of this Act will continue to work in the department till the age of retirement, irrespective of their method of appointment or period of service.

In reply to a question the minister said that initially the guest teachers were appointed in the year 2005 on the basis of agreement for a specific period i.e. as per the requirement or against the sanctioned vacant posts till the appointment of the regular teacher and the honorarium of the guest teachers was fixed on the basis of the period. After this, their agreements were renewed and their honorarium was increased from time to time on the basis of need.

Maruti gets 800 acres

The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development

Five bills voted

The winter session of the Vidhan Sabha passed the Haryana Settlement of Outstanding Dues (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Amendment bill, 2023 and Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

In addition, the Haryana Appropriation (No 5) Bill, 2023 was passed. The sums authorised to be paid and applied from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Haryana by this Act, shall be appropriated for the services and purposes specified in the Schedule relation to the financial year ending on thirty-first day March, 2024.

This Bill seeks to provide for a sum of Rs.1290,07,09, 133 from the Haryana's consolidated fund to meet the supplementary grants made by the Legislative Assembly for the expenditure for the financial year 2023-24 in pursuance of Articles 204 (1) and 205 of the Constitution of India.

Under the Haryana Appropriation (No. 6) bill, 2023. A total of Rs 238,79,3309 crore to meet the excess expenditure during the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 will be deemed to be approved for payment and utilisation from the Consolidated Fund of Haryana State.

Record recruitment done in 9 years: CM

By **Rajeev Ranjan Roy**

Given the fact that recruitment in government departments holds paramount importance as it directly influences the efficiency, functionality, and overall effectiveness of public administration, Haryana Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal has done record recruitments in the last nine years.

During the Winter Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal on December 18 underscored his government's holistic approach to governance, with a clear focus on empowering citizens through employment opportunities, transparent systems, and a robust educational framework.

Focus on merit

Highlighting the state government's focus on the merit based recruitments, the Chief Minister said that the present state government has done around 11,500 recruitments on Group A and B



posts and 1,06,000 on Group C and D posts.

"In addition, advertisements have been released for 3,200 Group A and B posts and around 61,000 for Group C and D are in the pipeline. Thus, a total of 1,67,000 recruitments will be made in our government. Whereas, during the Congress' 10-year tenure, there were only 8,700 HPSC and 93,000 HSSC recruitments," said Chief

Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

An effective recruitment strategy of the state government is not only helping in identifying individuals with requisite expertise and commitment to serve the public interest but is also enhancing service delivery, and strengthening the capacity of government agencies to address the diverse needs of the citizens.

The Chief Minister said that

the Opposition is continuously spreading misinformation regarding the Haryana Kaushal Rojgar Nigam, whereas the present state government has established the Nigam, ending the contract system for providing jobs transparently. Under this government platform, 105,728 old manpower has been ported, and 12,885 new people have been employed.

Devoid of facts

He said that the statements being made by the Opposition regarding unemployment figures in the state are completely devoid of facts. The opposition always plays with the unemployment figures shared by a private organization, the CMIE, while its figures keep changing.

"In a month, this organization showed Haryana's unemployment percentage at 22 per cent, the next month it showed 34 per cent, and then 28 per cent. However, the same organization showed a figure of 8 per cent for the month of November.

Yatra a big draw and huge success

Haryana Review Bureau

A huge draw and a big success, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has so far drawn over 22.5 lakh participants, including over 9,31,000 women, across Haryana. More than 18,56,352 lakh people have pledged to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Launched by the Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, on November 30, the Yatra is reaching out to the last person in the society aiming to inform the people about the welfare schemes of the government and to fulfill the vision of the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, of developed India by 2047.

The Chief Minister has been committed to reaching the benefits of government schemes to the last person in the society.

House begins search for a state song

Haryana Review Bureau

As having own state song holds significant cultural and symbolic importance, Haryana will soon get its own state song, which will serve not only as a powerful expression of regional identity, reflecting the unique heritage, traditions, and values that define the state but will also become a source of pride and unity, fostering a sense of belonging among the residents.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal on December 15 introduced a proposal in this regard during the first day of the Winter Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha. Three songs chosen by the government were played in the House. The House will decide on one song to be officially declared as the state song for the upcoming year. The song encapsulates Haryana's rich history, heritage and culture, symbolizing a significant cultural milestone for the state.

Lyrics and melodies

Through its lyrics and melodies, a state song has the potential to capture the rich history and cultural diversity of Haryana, preserving and promoting its distinctive identity. It will act as a musical ambassador, not only representing Haryana's past but also shaping its cultural narrative for the future, contrib-

uting to the cultural fabric of the state and creating a lasting legacy that resonates with generations to come.

Presenting the proposal, Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal said that though Haryana came into existence on 1st November, 1966, the sacred land of the state has been the centre of our history, tradition and culture since the pre-Vedic period. Haryana today is recognised as one of the foremost States in Bharat. The people of Haryana have always made several sacrifices in defending the nation and significantly contributed in nation building.

"Haryana has its own emblem, it does not have a State Song that represents its history and culture and embodies the virtues and contributions of its people. The State Song once adopted will provide a new proud identity to all Haryanvis irrespective of their caste, gender, religion or economic status," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal.

He further said that the song options have been chosen through an elaborate process from amongst 204 entries submitted by the people of the State in response to public invitation through newspaper advertisements. "The song is adopted initially for a period of one year from today as the State Song of Haryana. I hope the State song will represent the collective will of the people of Haryana whom we all represent," said the Chief Minister.

Discipline is the pillar of good governance, says CM

Haryana Review Bureau

Haryana Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, while reiterating his unwavering commitment to maintain the pace of good governance in the state, stressed the importance of discipline in serving the people in the best possible manner.

He was addressing, as the Chief Guest, officers and others present at the state level program



organized on the occasion of Good Governance Day in Panchkula on December 25.

Ministers, MPs, MLAs and District Administration officials from the District Headquarters virtually attended the event.

"I consider discipline as a fundamental pillar of good governance. The basic mantra of good governance is that people can easily avail the benefits of government services at home," said Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal, reaffirming the fact that in the

realm of governance, discipline manifests as a commitment to adhering to established laws, regulations, and ethical standards, ensuring that those in positions of authority act responsibly and transparently and foster a culture of accountability.

Paying his homage to distinguished figures Bharat Ratna Madan Mohan Malviya and former Prime Minister Bharat

Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on their birthdays, the Chief Minister acknowledged that it was under the leadership of the former Prime Minister Late Shri Vajpayee that the country witnessed progress from east to west and from north to south. The initiative of fostering connectivity had begun during his tenure, which is regarded as a model of good governance, he said.

Imbibing the vision of Late Shri Vajpayee, Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi launched 'Good

Governance Day' annually on his birthday in 2014, said the Chief Minister.

In alignment with this vision, he initiated the CM Window as a manifestation of Good Governance Day, two months after assuming office in 2014. Presently, over 11.50 lakh individuals have gained direct access to government through the CM Window, a pointer to the fact that a disciplined governance system emphasizes the importance of procedural consistency, treating all citizens equitably and safeguarding their rights.

Chief Minister Mr Manohar Lal highlighted that the journey of good governance in Haryana commenced in 2014, resulting in the establishment of trust among the people in government and its services.

Adhering to the principles of good governance, the current Haryana government is facilitating convenient access to government services for citizens from the comfort of their homes.

In pursuit of transformative efforts aimed at reshaping the government system, ongoing initiatives are consistently working towards enhancing efficiency to ensure seamless availability of facilities and services to the general public.

Mustard crop sends out a message

by Vinay Malik



Failure teaches how to succeed: Dhankad

Haryana Review Bureau

Mr Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President, has advised the students not to fear failure but to consider it as the greatest teacher who teaches us how to succeed.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, who said "Take risks in your life, if you win, you can lead, if you lose, you can guide" he asked the students to take risks in life and pursue new endeavours, as failure is the best teacher.

Mr Dhankar was speaking after conferring PhD degrees

upon scholars at the 18th convocation ceremony held at Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak.

He told the scholars to work with dedication, serve the elderly and show respect for the country. It is a matter of pride that in this convocation ceremony, 1,216 scholars were awarded Ph.D. degrees, and among them, 740 are women, showcasing the progress made by women in every field in India and in Haryana.

Saying that receiving education from this institution goes beyond personal achievements, he empha-

sized the importance of staying connected with the alma mater, as it would significantly contribute to the institution's progress.

Mr Dhankhar praised the scholars, stating that they are fortunate individuals who received education during the Amrit Kaal. He urged them to utilize their unique circumstances, harness their boundless energy, and move forward by applying their talents and potential.

The Vice-President highlighted the fact that India today ranks among the top 10 countries

globally in technological innovation. The Quantum Technology mission and Green Hydrogen mission emphasised the enormous employment opportunities in these areas. He asked the scholars to always respect their elders, parents, teachers, and the country. In India, where respect for elders is ingrained, it's essential to always prioritize respect for them. Indian culture and heritage set India apart from other nations, and students should illuminate their family, state, and the country's name, he added.

Diksha, Sunil, Antim to get Arjuna Award

Haryana Review Bureau

Three players from Haryana will be honored with the National Sports Awards 2023 for their outstanding performance in sports. Diksha Dagar, a golfer from Haryana, has been selected for the Arjuna Award. In wrestling, Sunil Kumar and Antim will receive the Arjuna Award. In addition, Kurukshetra University has been declared the runner-up for the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023. Chief Minister Sh. Manohar Lal congratulated the players for being selected for the National Sports Awards.

He said the athletes from Haryana have worked diligently to qualify themselves for national and international competitions. They have touched new heights through their hard work and dedication, leading to their selection for the National Sports Awards. The chief minister was happy to note that Haryana has been consistently holding the number-one position in sports. He highlighted that the state's athletes have made the state proud by significantly contributing to various sports, and he takes pride in it.

MoU with HIPSA to promote women's kabaddi

Haryana Review Bureau

With a view to promoting women's kabaddi outside India and for the development and promotion of this sport, the Haryana Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA).

The signing ceremony was held in the presence of the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr V Umashankar, Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi, Mr D. Suresh, and Principal Secretary, Sports Department, Mr Navdeep Virk, were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Umashankar said the MoU aimed at promoting women's kabaddi outside India, with special focus on Pravasi Bharati women and on having the sport of kabaddi included in the Summer Olympics.

Public holidays and special days in 2024

Haryana Review Bureau

The Haryana Government has announced public holidays for 2024 which apply to all public offices under the state government. According to the notification issued by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Sanjeev Kaushal, certain dates in the 2024 calendar have been notified as Special Days for the first time. But these will not be designated as public holidays.

All Saturdays and Sundays will be observed as holidays throughout the year.

The list of public holidays include Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Jayanti on 17 January, Republic Day on 26 January, Basant Panchmi/ Sir Chhotu Ram Jayanti on 14 February, Maha Shivratri on 8 March, Holi on 25 March, Eid-ul-Fitr on 11 April, Ram Navmi on 17 April, Parshuram Jayanti/ Akshya Tritya on 10 May, Id-uz-Zuha (Bakrid) on 17 June, Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day on 31 July, Independence Day on 15 August, Raksha

Bandhan on 19 August, Janmashtami on 26 August, Shaheedi Divas/ Haryana War Heroes Martyrdom Day on 23 September, Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October, Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti on 3 October, Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti/ Maharaja Ajmidh Jayanti on 17 October, Diwali/Haryana Day on 1 November, Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti on 15 November, and Christmas on 25 December.

Special days in 2024

Special Days have been notified for the first time. However, these will not be designated as public holidays. Special Days in 2024 include Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti on 23 January, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jayanti on 11 April, Sant Dhanna Bhagat Jayanti on 27 April, Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji Jayanti on 29 April, Sant Sen Ji Maharaj Jayanti on 5 May, Shri Guru Gauraksh Nath Memorial Day on 23 May, Mateshwari Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Jayanti on 31 May, Kavi Baaje Bhagat Jayanti on 15 July, Maharaja Daksh Prajapati Jayanti on 27 July, Shri

Guru Jambheshwar Ji Jayanti on 26 August, Lord Vishwakarma Jayanti on 17 September, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti on 31 October, Virangana Jhalkari Bal Jayanti on 22 November, and Maharaja Shoorsaini Jayanti on 20 December.

Public holidays under Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881

The state government has also declared several holidays applicable to all sectors except judicial courts in accordance with Section 25 of the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881. These include all 52 Sundays of the year, Republic Day on January 26 (Friday), Basant Panchmi/Sir Chhotu Ram Jayanti on February 14, Maha Shivratri on March 8, Holi on March 25, the Annual Bank Account Closing on April 1, Id-ul-Fitr on April 11, Ram Navmi on April 17, Parshuram Jayanti/ Akshya Tritya on May 10, Id-uz-Zuha (Bakrid) on June 17, Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day on July 31st, Independence Day on August 15, Raksha Bandhan on 19 August, Janmashtami on 26 August, Shaheedi Divas/Haryana War Heroes Martyrdom Day on 23

September, Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October, Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti on 3 October, Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti/ Maharaja Ajmidh Jayanti on 17 October, Diwali/ Haryana Day on 1 November

Restricted holidays

The restricted holidays include Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti on March 5, Chhath Puja on April 13, Good Friday on March 29, Buddha Purnima on May 23, Guru Arjan Dev's Martyrdom Day on June 10, Maharshi Kayshap Jayanti on June 11, Muharram on July 17, Hariyali Teej on September 6, and Milad-un-Nabi or Id-E-Milad on September 16, Karva Chauth On October 20, Goverdhan Puja on November 2, Guru Teg Bahadur's Martyrdom Day on November 24 and Shaheed Udham Singh's Jayanti on December 26.

Employees, including those outsourced, have the flexibility to select any three holidays from this list of restricted holidays.